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THE MAGAZINE FOR CROSSDRESSERS, DRAG QUEENS & ADMIRERS

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FETISH COMFORT

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FROM THE EDITOR BLAH BLAH BLAH



Welcome to our summer issue of Illusion Magazine. As I write this the sun is shining brightly through the window, but probably by the time you read this, it will, no doubt be raining cats and dogs. Such is the painful reality of an Alberta summer! Our family will head out to the west coast in July and hopefully the Sunshine Coast will be exactly that!

Unless you live in a vacuum, you're probably aware that SM, fetish and fantasy have exploded in popularity. Images of aggressive, leather-clad mistresses are everywhere in the media, from MTV videos to fetishistic pictorials in haute couture magazines, kinky snippets in mainstream movies, and the ever increasing enthusiasm by the porno industry to jump on the B&D bandwagon. Because of all of this, "Fetish" is growing fast.

Illusion Magazine is ever exploring many of the variations of "Fetish".

That may be a word that bothers or confuses you..but it's just a blanket name to include all of us. Labels are so tough to work with because of all the interpretations it conjures up for people. Whether you crossdress in full female attire or just in a pair of shoes; participate in role playing with S&M; or whether the smell of leather or rubber can bring you to your knees, there are many components of all of these luxuries that we can all relate to. Education, Stimulation, Exploration.

I find it interesting in the shop lately, that there seems to be an increase of the amount of folks that want to "party" with our crossdressing group! These people don't appear to have sexual appetites needing to be filled (we can usually spot those requests!)...these are people hinting that they would like to meet more exciting people.

Whether you like him or not..you have to figure that a party with Dennis Rodman would be interesting to say the least. Maybe people are looking to bridge some of the gaps and just have fun!

In these summer months, don't forget to play safe and don't forget to start up some interesting alternative subjects around the campfire!

Lots of love
Barbie

Barbie

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COVERGIRL
Christie

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FROM THE EDITOR DEAR READER

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LASER REJUVENATION CLINICS

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It seems like it was only yesterday when we started to create "Illusions" the club and now we have just enjoyed our seventh birthday. We now have new royalty, I'm sure they will do their best to leave their personal mark on "Illusions" the club and I'm looking forward to their article input in the Illusion magazine. The party itself was good fun and the entertainment seems to get better every year. This issue will have a birthday party review courtesy of Teri with photo's from both Teri and Coreen.

The dog days of summer are upon us, none too soon I might add, and with that we have the opportunity to venture off to various other events around town and countryside. Pride events (dance and parade), the ARGRA Rodeo (camping and dance), the Great Alberta Camp Out (Red Deer way), the Girls of Summer and something NEW, "Illusions" the club will be operating this summer, unlike years in the past when August it would shut down. Continuing on a club note, judging by Empress Lisa's article (see Social Pages), she is setting out a full calendar of events for "Illusions" members this upcoming year.

We traditionally see the frocks get put away for the long days of summer and attendance declines..... with so much to do this summer, how can you possibly go the whole summer without enjoying your finer side???? Even if you don't feel comfortable out in summers light frocked up, attend dressed as you feel comfortable, shorts, jeans, boy clothes..... the key is to just ATTEND!!!! If you don't get out and support these various events, sooner or later they won't be there for you, and that would be a shame.

When you attend various events at new venues, please be aware of your surroundings, go in groups if you can (groups can be so much more fun and much safer), watch for anything that doesn't look right and don't put yourself in any high risk situations. It is so exhilarating to go to new places and be accepted by those there, just be safe getting to and from these new venues. Remember, not all places are as safe and accepting as your "Illusions" club space, so when you venture out, make sure that blonde wig is for show and not your general attitude!

Have a great summer,

Christine

THE MAIL YOUR LETTERS

My name is Rachael Dawn Bardeck, I am a pre-op TS formerly from Calgary, now residing in a suburb of Vancouver, B.C. As a former member of Illusions, I'd like to share some thoughts with you.

Recently, I was thumbing through some 1996 issues of Illusion Magazine and I realised how much I missed both the club and it's colourful membership! The phrase, "You never know what you have until it's gone", is very pertinent to Illusions.

As a TS, I find no pleasure in wearing female attire, it just goes with the gender. My thoughts at the time were, how could grown men enjoy dressing as a woman? I still don't fully understand it, as I've never been a TV, but what I do understand is the vibrant personalities I have witnessed when men let go of their straight jacket men side and embrace their loving, passionate side of their femininity. So many times I've seen what appears to be a dormant rose bush, blossom into a beautiful soft and special transvestite or transsexual human being.

This is something I can comprehend, before joining Illusions, I was like a caterpillar. I only let my beauty shine for short moments or hours when I felt reasonably safe. Usually I hid in my home or car. Somehow I learned of a club which I could blend into, that would take me as the rough chunk of coal I was, and transform me into the sparkling diamond I am. If it weren't for Illusions and the nerve I took to visit the club the first time, I have no doubt I would still be hiding or in the coffin I was heading for. In many ways, Illusions saved me by being there, Thanks Christine and Barbie.

Once you've experienced Illusions, it never really leaves you. I am now living as a full-time pre-operative, successful woman. This is thanks to the Illusions Girls giving me a firm foundation with which to create and display Rachael on. For that and more I'm grateful.

In all ways I'm now the woman I've always known I was. I'm a makeup artist, esthetician, electrologist, accountant and seamstress. But in my full time career, I'm a long haul truck driver. The confidence Illusions gave me, is something I use everyday now. I'm still not the most passable female there is, but my walk, talk and confidence (and feminine attributes the hormones give me, including diet, exercise and makeup) allow me to pass and work at the same level as any man, in a male-dominated work environment.

Thanks to Ty Morgan, Teri, Michelle and a whole lot of other "Sisters", I've learned how to look, feel, act and be a woman. I honestly miss these girls, as well as all the new ones that are coming out. Very soon I hope to reacquaint myself with Illusions as a full-fledged member. If you are thinking of coming out, do it. Your fear is your own worst enemy. If you are thinking of quitting the club, don't! You will always miss it. If you are a member stop acting like a guy (unless you are a female to male TV or TS). Get involved, volunteer, the experience itself will help to mould the person you are. It doesn't matter if you live in Manitoba or Washington or the Yukon, you have a lifetime of experience and feelings to share with others. Get involved, be the person you should be.

As I close this letter, I'll leave you with a thought and a poem. "On your death bed, can you say "I lived my dreams, I fulfilled my goals, I became the best person I could be, and I served wherever I was needed. I came out of the closet" Or will you say "I was afraid to be a whole person, afraid to come out and be the best I can be."

...continued on page 19

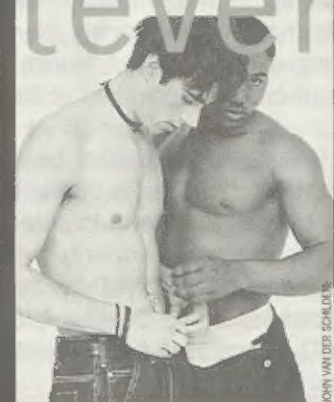
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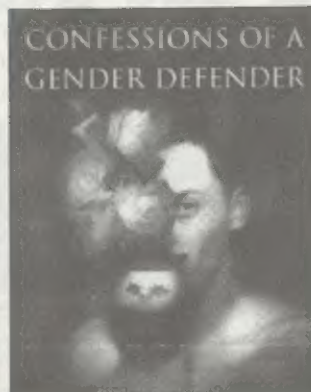
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BOOK REVIEWS



Confessions of a Gender Defender

Randi Ettner, PhD.
IFGE, 1997

"Full of profound insights." - Jean Marie Stine, Transgender Tapestry magazine.

"Simultaneously hilarious and tear-jerking. Dr. Ettner's lively style and amazing patients keep you turning pages." - Martine Rothblatt, chairwoman, Bioethics Committee, International Bar Association, and author, The Apartheid of Sex.

"This deeply sensitive book proves that Randi Ettner is one of the most knowledgeable and talented clinical psychologists working within the transgendered field in the United States today." - Eugene A. Schrang, MD., plastic and sex reassignment surgeon.

"I was left wanting more, more, more! A great publication." - Vanessa Murray, International Foundation for Gender Education.

Randi Ettner is an articulate and compassionate advocate for the transgendered, she speaks at conferences, seminars and support groups around the country. She is a

6/Illusion Magazine

proponent of outreach counselling services to areas of the country that lack adequate professional resources and public understanding of the transgendered.

The Bliss of Becoming One

Integrating "Feminine" Feelings Into the Male Psyche Mainstreaming the Gender Community

Rachel Miller
IFGE

Author Gives Hope, Encouragement and Direction to Transvestite Members of the Gender Community. The Bliss of Becoming One is a guide for members of the gender community, their friends and family, and those interested in understanding transvestism and gender issues. Author Rachel Miller describes a shared vision of an open society and steps that can be taken to turn that vision into reality. In this challenging new book, the author dispels myths surrounding transvestites, encourages transvestites to integrate their feminine and masculine traits, advocated transvestites' joining mainstream society, and promotes emotional health, wholeness and unity for transvestites. Transvestite readers will learn to understand themselves better, accept what they find, share what they learn with loved ones, and help others in the gender community - all through application of the Golden Rule.

The author says, "Unless you live alone in a cave," Miller explains, "one of your closest friends is a transvestite who is dying inside because he can't tell you. Society tells such men that there is something wrong with them. Therefore, they suppress their true selves and

live in anguish and isolation.

"The sum of all 'valid' reasons society uses for discriminating against transvestites would fit comfortably in a thimble," Miller continues. "WE don't have to stay in those constricting closets any longer. The good news is that, for the most part, the perceptions of transvestites are wrong - and they can be fixed. This book will show how to fix them."

The New Good Vibrations Guide to Sex:

Tips and Techniques from
America's Favorite Sex Toy Store
Second Edition
Cathy Winks and Anne Semans
Cleis Press, 1997

Cleis Press announces publication of The New Good Vibrations Guide to Sex, the second edition of the most complete sex manual ever written, now expanded and updated with the latest sexual tips, techniques and technology.

Ten years of selling sex toys in a women-owned vibrator store call Good Vibrations have given authors Semans and Winks a unique perspective. After talking to thousands of men and women about sex, they've learned what real people enjoy doing in bed and what information can help anyone achieve a happier, more satisfying sex life. This invaluable bedside companion is the single best reference guide to expressing and sharing sexual pleasure ever published.

International Foundation for
Gender Education
PO Box 229
Waltham, MA 02254-0229

LIP SERVICE

If you are lucky enough to have been born with a full, luscious set of lips, skip this article. On the other hand, if you are like me and have the skinny, almost unnoticeable lips typical of most men, read on. With a little effort you can have the full, pouty pucker power of your dreams.

To do this you will have to draw your lips in well outside your natural lip line. Poorly done, this will make you look like Bozo the Clown--or his wife, at best.

Pulling off this optical illusion requires attention to six things: preparing your lips, selecting suitable colours, using a lip pencil and lip brush, perfecting the bow, taking a gradual approach to shaping, using special 3-D effects, and maintaining your results.

The first step begins before you even start your make-up. If your lips are dry, cracked and flaking, they won't make a very good base. Two products come in handy to prevent this: Vaseline Lip Therapy lip balm applied whenever you notice yourself constantly licking your lips, and if there is still flaking, Clarins Gentle Facial peeling (sold at The Bay).

Choosing the right colour of lip pencil and lipstick is also essential. Lip pencil should be chosen in a colour

that is at least as dark as your natural lips. That way, when you draw them in you will create a base for your lipstick that will not show a line between where your real lip ends and the enhancement begins. You can be a little freer in your choice of lipstick, but it is best to stay with a fairly dark shade.

Drawing in new lips is art. You can't paint the Mona Lisa with a roller. Use a sharp lip pencil. At the very least, sharpen it before you start and when you're halfway through. To get a nice fine point, roll the tip across a tissue. It will help if you have a fairly soft pencil (MAC and Ultima II ones are good). Also, don't put lipstick on straight from the tube. Use a lip brush. You can't get enough control otherwise. MAC makes a very handy one (Number 17) which has a detachable handle that serves as a sheath so you can take it with you in your purse for touch-ups (more on that later).

Look at close-ups of models' faces in ads and ladies magazines. You will see a great diversity of lip shapes. As long as they are even on both sides, you can get away with a lot. What you must have though, is a nice "bow". This is the centre part on the top. Be sure to start in the centre and make a little "V". Make it a fairly wide open V at the top, because if it isn't right, you

can adjust it a lot easier by adding to the upper parts of the arms of the V.

You will almost never get your outline perfect the first time, so start with an outline a little smaller than the result you want to end up with. As you add a touch here and a touch there to even things out, they will almost certainly grow a bit. Once you have the outline right, shade it in completely with the lip pencil. (Of course, your foundation should have come right up to and onto your lips before you even started.) You can go fairly far above and below your natural lip line (perhaps as much as 3/16" or even 1/4" at the peak of the bow), but don't go to the right or left of your mouth (to avoid the Bozo effect).

Now you have full lips, but they may seem a little flat. You can enhance them by taking a little lip gloss and covering them. With this shine, the natural protuberance of your lip will cause a reflection that will make the central portion stand out, giving a "3-D" effect. This can also be achieved by using Revlon White la carte lipstick. Gently apply a little in the centre of your lips with your fingertip to simulate a highlight.

Remember that these lips are just painted on. As you drink, eat and lick your lips, they will wear away.

Teri

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EROTIC STORIES MUFFLED PROTESTS

Katie and Sue, two very devious sisters, plotted and planned, using all of their feminine charm to entice Roger, the most sought-after man on campus. After all, he was rich beyond belief, and they knew this was their big chance. One of them had to get him - and they secretly promised each other to share the wealth!

If Roger was wise to their scheme, he didn't let on. He also didn't let on what plans he had for his all too willing victims. Chuckling to himself, he folded the note and stuck it in an envelope with the key to his father's penthouse and scribbled "Katie" on the outside. Papa was away until Saturday, three full days to see if either of the sisters could live up to his standards of a "real" woman. They were both beautiful enough, with young, fresh, firm bodies, but he knew about his own special requirements - and demands.

Kate, reading the note, couldn't wait. Hastily she left a message for Sue to meet her there later. The key turned easily in the lock, revealing an elaborately decorated plush apartment that overlooked the city.

She caught her breath as she opened the master bedroom, the brass bed gleamed, the red satin sheets passionately invited.

Kate stands in awe, unaware of another presence lurking behind her. She hears something but it's too late. He is upon her quickly - grabbing her - forcing her onto the red satin sheets. She screams - he continues. As he wrenches her arms behind her back, she feels his cold steel handcuffs; she hears them clink into place. She tries to look back at him but can't. He grabs her feet, his weight fully on top of her now, and ties them together. Before she can gather her senses, he is turning, taking another length of rope and wrapping it around her elbows, pulling them together tighter and tighter.

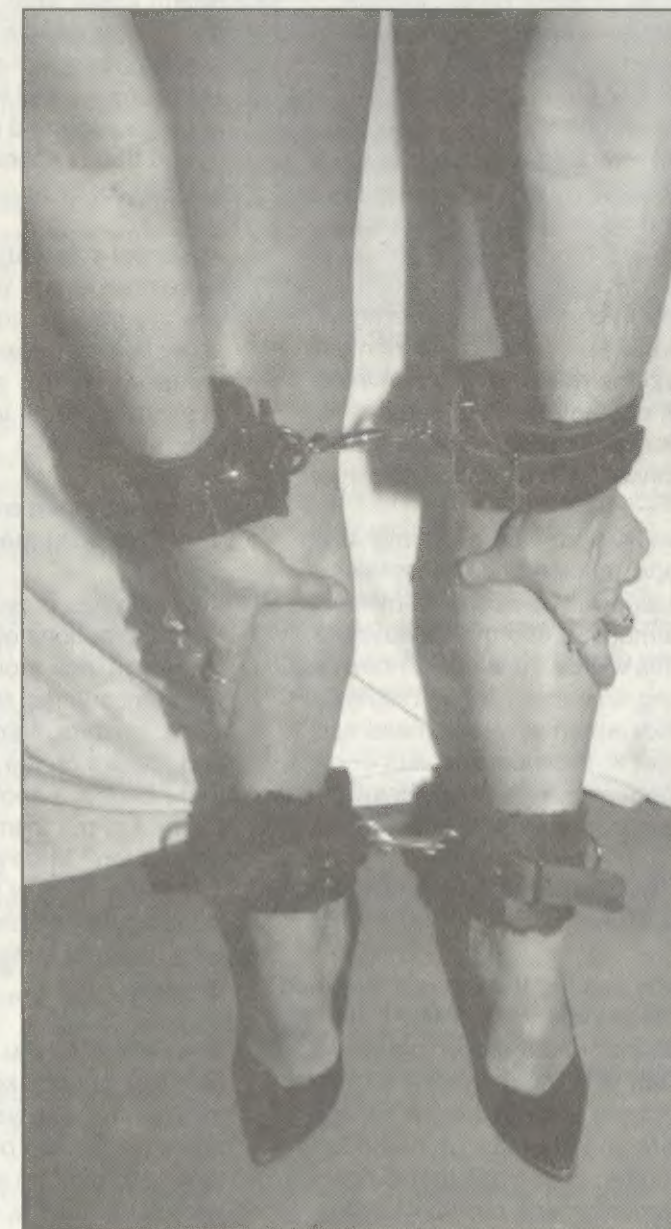
"NO" she cries out. "You're hurting me!"

But, unfearing and uncaring, he finishes the hogtie and rudely stuffs a ball gag in her mouth. She sees him - but is it Roger? The stocking mask blurs his features. He leaves as suddenly as he appeared. All she can do is wait for Sue...and Roger?

What seems like hours later she hears Sue calling for her. Rescued at last! Finally the bedroom door opens. "Kate!" Sue exclaims, shocked at the sight of her sister bound on the bed. Quickly she rushes towards her but is caught in midstride. He grabs her and pushes her

toward the foot of the brass bed, fighting, kicking, and yelling. Undaunted by her resistance, he ties her wrists to the bars. Terrified she kicks at him and connects, not noticing her dress has opened, revealing her beautiful bare breasts. He wonders if there is something more beautiful than a woman fighting her bonds as he lunges in grabbing her ankles, then tying them before turning his attention to gagging her with a white cloth.

Dressed in luscious black lingerie, atop sky high heels, they are next treated to a new position - strapped and chained - their near naked bodies squirming close on the luxurious red satin sheets..gagged protests escape like moans into their gags.



The Society Page

A Commitment to a better club and to you too!

The Illusions 1997 social scene may be our finest yet. We have had seven years of memorable times and fellowship, sistership, which has made us one of the finest crossdresser's clubs in the world. We have the power to be better, helping others and ourselves. But the threat of declining numbers caused by rumour, alienation, other party venues and even boredom is causing a concern to keep Illusions alive. We must refuse to let that happen.

Part of the plan is to enliven the social calendar by bringing back the events that Illusions members enjoy, then add some new ones that will be exciting and helpful to us all.

Returning are karaoke, bingo, Dress for Pleasure, talent night, and the make-up/hair seminars. Of course expect to see the Christmas potluck and the 8th annual Birthday/Empress pageant.

On Illusions non-event nights a topic relating to crossdressing issues will be raised, stimulating formal and informal discussion. This will be beneficial to new and long-time members in helping to understand why we crossdress, how to communicate with our spouses, friends and family, or gain tips on how to 'dress for success'.

"The plan is to enliven the social calendar"

Why has the Illusions spirit waned? The answer varies. Many cite hurt feelings in our move downstairs, a change in the magazine format, partying at crossdresser friendly bars and the old "I'm cured". Another concern is that Calgary, Edmonton and our surrounding

towns and cities are finite in the amount of crossdressers living in them, and perhaps we have seen all of them come through our doors. A cynic may say we are finished.

Let's look at some possible solutions to these problems. You must first put aside your biases, we can deal with them as we move ahead but look inside and see if you give a darn about what Illusions really is. Do you believe you need a place to meet like-minded friends, share stories and feelings? Learn to be yourself and not hide the part or you that is special? It's a sure bet you do.

The most important thing you must remember is that you are Illusions, you are not a visitor. Each time you show up you make an impact on the growth of this group. With that in mind you must take ownership in your membership.

"You must take ownership in your (Illusion) membership."

This club has grown and runs on the contributions of it's members, when you look around the club you will see couches, tables, magazines, posters, lights, clean dishes, and snacks on the table. They got there because another member thought to put them there. Can you do that too? More on what we need later but just your hand in cleaning up or bringing in a snack for a meeting makes a world of difference.

The Pledge to you. Now that your help has been asked for, your commitment will always be honoured. In the past some people have said they tried offering assistance but were turned away, that is no longer

the case, tell your social committee what you want to do and we will get you in there.

You don't have to ask. there are duties that the club requires so that it runs smoothly. These are vacuuming the carpets, sweeping the floors, washing the dishes, and tidying the library. Just come in, and do it. You will be acknowledged.

There will be a number of functions held this year and your assistance on one, some or all would be most appreciated by the group.

This year we have elected a wonderful royalty. Our Empress Rachel is the first from Edmonton to wear the crown; she unites the two cities. Wish her luck and give her your support. Her new role includes the chairing of social events for Illusions but with Rachel living in Edmonton it will be difficult for her to run the affairs of the social committee in Calgary, (but look out Edmonton you're in for a good time). So, to assist her, Empress IV Lisa will take up the duty of running the social events in Calgary. Lisa's experience in forming the social committee in 1993 and chairing it in 1994 will contribute greatly to the running of the club. Right now Empress VI Michelle has offered to assist and we are open to more volunteers, we expect more soon.

Our first event is the Stampede Saloon, Saturday July 12. It's a change from our traditional BBQ night, but expect to try our Annie Oakley Punch that will put you into party spirit. Western snacks will also be available. Dress western,

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Observation

by David Jackson

ARE YOU COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR FETISH?

Fetish could include "crossdressing", leather, rubber, shoes, corsetry and on and on. Do you associate words like guilt, deviance, secrecy or perversion with your fetish? Do you have the feeling that you are the only person in the world with a sexual attraction to spike-heeled boots or a rubber mask? Does the thought of someone, anyone, finding out about your fetish interests make you nervous or queasy? If you can answer yes to these questions, then it's time to take a closer look at your fetishism, because you are not comfortable with it!

If you are a bit uncomfortable with your fetish instincts, this is not particularly a bad thing. How many of us are completely comfortable with public speaking or our first dive off the high board? Anxiety is a natural emotion. The idea is to recognize the level of comfort you do or do not have with your fetish and to evaluate how that relates to your enjoyment of it. We want to enjoy our leathers, or corsetry, or crossdressing, not just worry about what other people think.

A very important part of feeling comfortable with your fetishism is knowing exactly what it is that interests you. Evaluate yourself. Self-knowledge is a key part of your acceptance of fetishism. The other key to it is acknowledging outside influences. Your childhood upbringing or the opinions of friends and family once you are an adult can bear directly upon the comfort or anxiety you feel when you indulge in your fetish. The important thing to remember is that wanting to relax around the house in a rubber suit or

the desire to make love to your spouse while you both wear garterbelts, stockings and six-inch heels should make you feel good while it harms no one else. Now that's a comforting thought!

Ask yourself the following questions with honesty. There is no prize or penalty for the result. You will not be graded. When done, sum up your answers and evaluate yourself. Your answers should give you a clear indication of how comfortable you are with your fetish.

Do you generally hide your fetish interests, keeping them a secret from everyone?

Are you able to acknowledge your fetishism to friends or family?

Do you always associate fetishism or bizarre fashion interests with bondage, domination or S&M?

Aside from the sexual fantasies do you sometimes wear your fetish gear purely for the pleasure of how it looks and feels?

Do you experience emotional binge-and-purge cycles in regard to your interests? Are you compulsive about them?

Is your fetish a balanced part of your overall lifestyle?

If someone learns of your fetishism do you worry what they think of you?

Do you discuss this interest and try to inform others about it?

Is your home or workplace devoid

of any fetish or fantasy indicators? Do you openly display subtle indicators on your coffee table or send "kinky" greeting cards?

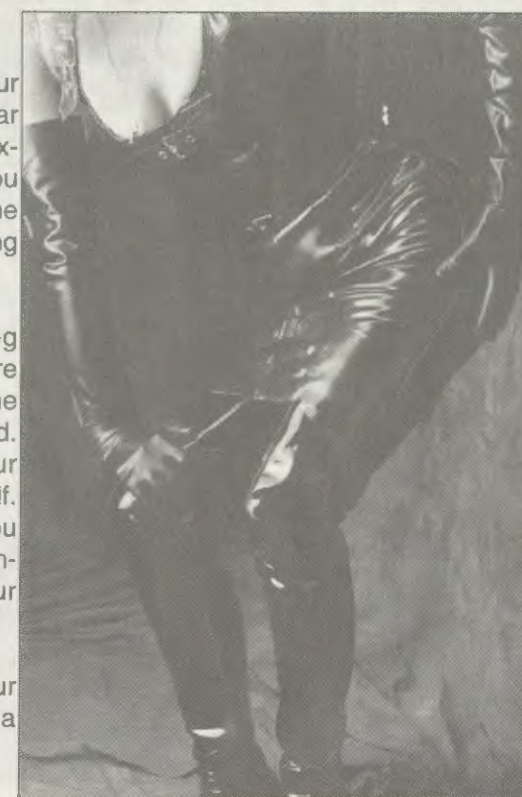
Do you feel sick, strange, abnormal, or all alone in your fetishism?

Do you understand that fetishism is a popular human sexual reaction and that there are many people who share your interests?

If you have a fetish for, say, leather or rubber, do you hesitate to wear that material in public?

Whatever your fetish focus, can you wear at least a conservative version of it in public?

After achieving orgasm during fetish sex do you immediately want to get out of the clothes you're wearing?



...continued on page 12



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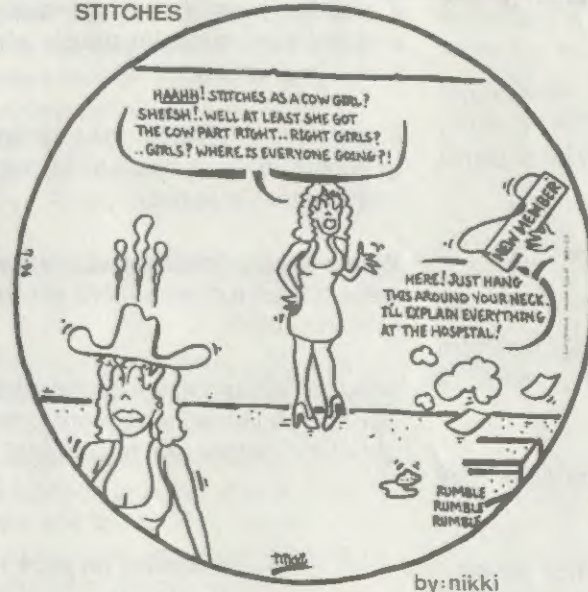
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STITCHES



by: nikki

Can you wind down from your climax in no great hurry to remove your fetish gear?

Are you unable to approach a stranger, no matter where, who is wearing the object of your fetish?

Are you able to go up to such a person and compliment them, or ask them where they got their garments or footwear?

At fetish parties, do you find it difficult to wear anything relatively risqué?

Are you able to wear items out, that you would wear in the privacy of your own home?

At events, do you bring your outfit in a bag and change at the event, both arriving and leaving?

Are you okay to walk to your car in the wee hours without first changing back to your "civies?"

Do you shop for your fetish wardrobe exclusively by mail even if a well-stocked fetish boutique is available?

Are you able to shop for your gear in person, trying things on, or discussing custom work with the salesgal?

If you do shop mail order, do you accept imperfect goods so as not to draw attention to yourself?

Do you require courage enhancers such as alcohol or drugs to attend a party, go shopping or discuss the subject?

Is the thrill of wearing your favourite fetish outfit enough of a high?

**Please make
a note.**

**The Royal Chat
Throne Speech's
will appear
next issue.**

Have you ever wanted to talk to someone about Your need to Crossdress?

Have you tried talking to a randomly
picked professional and heard,
"Well, I don't know much
about this subject, but
we can learn together!"

Do you want knowledgeable information on Crossdressing, Crossliving or Transsexualism?

If any of the above questions can be
answered by yes, call

Gender Consulting Services

Talk with someone who has gone through the transsexual process and is quite happy with the outcome.

We are very knowledgeable on crossdressing issues and can direct you to professional care givers who are experienced with gender issues.

We listen to your concerns, help you acquire valuable resource material and help you network with Transgender organizations in your area should you desire.

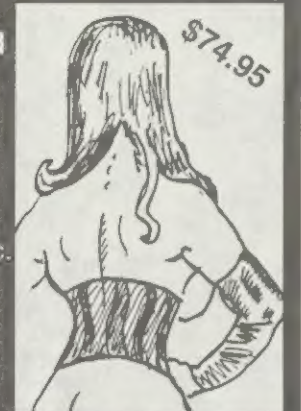
At a fraction of the cost of others, we supply you with knowledgeable information that has been amassed through real life experiences; from the formation and operation of one of Canada's premier crossdressing organizations, and operating a gender positive store, to researching the works of other gender positive workers and simply living the life of a "Gender-Gifted" person.

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GIRLS UP NORTH SOCIAL UPDATE

*Empress V.I.I.
Rachel C.*

AS usual it's been a beehive of activity up here in Edmonton. A girl could practically wear out a pair of heels in no time flat by taking in all the events that go on in this city. Some of the "girls" have even had the chance to meet some high profile people during the last two months. I think it's safe to say that people are beginning to notice that we really are out there!

On May 17, Illusions held it's first Brazilian Carnival Night in Calgary. The night turned out to be a great success. Christina did a great job putting things together for the night, which included some great door prizes. Empress VI Michelle and I hosted the show that evening. There was a good sized crowd in attendance and Jessica and Sonya walked away with most of the prizes. Jessica even had the temerity to win three different prizes. Some girls are just so darn lucky! The following afternoon Sonya hosted a barbecue at her place where she once again outdid herself with dinner. Chicken has rarely tasted as good as it did that day.

Back in Edmonton, on the concert scene, Coreen and Jenny had managed to get hold of some tickets to the Bruce Cockburn show held in Edmonton in May. They went "en femme" and had a great time taking in the show. After the show, Coreen ran into some friends with connections and as a result, the two girls got to go backstage and meet Bruce in person. I bet you Bruce was surprised.

Election time can sometimes be very interesting and full of opportunities. As a result of the recent election, our own Roxanne had the opportunity to meet the then Minister of Natural Resources, Anne McLennan. Roxanne went as the representative of the ISCWR (Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose) at a meeting for people in the alternate lifestyle community. What the minister thought of Roxanne and everyone else there, I can't say. I can tell you with near certainty though, is that she must of looked up to everyone there!

During one of my infrequent weekend nights out, I ran into Dr. Wernicki. He is the head of psychiatry for the Capital Health Authority in Edmonton and is the doctor who specializes in gender identity issues. I was quite happy with myself, he spoke at our social last September. When I complimented him for remembering my name, he said that it wasn't difficult and that he has "heard a lot about me"! Now I wonder if I should be happy or concerned about that statement of his. Oh well, life goes on.

EVENTS CALENDAR CANADA & INT'L

ILLUSIONS CALGARY

July 12
Stampede Saloon
Bring your Western Spirit,
and wear your denim.

July 25
Our first topic night.
Let's socialize and talk about what
Illusions needs.

July 27
**Mr. & Ms. Gay Calgary XIII and
Mz. Gay Calgary I Pageant**
Join us for the Masque of
Love..Together again, at the
Quality Hotel Downtown in the
Stampede City of Calgary. We will
be looking forward to saluting a
year gone by and to the beginning
of a new and even better year, with
the crowning of Mr. & Ms. Gay
Calgary XIII and for the first time
Mz. Gay Calgary I. for further
information, contact Stasia Slide
205-4366 or Collin DeWitt
Atchinson at 269-2027 after 5pm.
(non-club function)

August 9
A tearful Farewell
We say goodbye to some of
Calgary members who are being
transferred due to the closing of
CFB Calgary.

Mr. & Ms. Gay Calgary
Fund-raiser at Money-Pennies
(non-club function)

August 22
Last Chance for Gas
The next stop is the Edmonton
Ball, first chance to party on a
great weekend.

August, 23
GIRLS OF SUMMER V
Location TBA
Girls of Summer, a Gala night of
friendship, cuisine and perfor-
mance arts fills the gap! A major
fund raiser for the Illusions Social
Committee for the year.

September 6
Welcome back to the routine.
Summer may be ending but the
darker nights allow you to get out
more. See you at Illusions.

September 27
Topic number 2 night

ILLUSIONS EDMONTON

July 10
Open Social
No special guests this night. Just
the girls getting together.

August 14
Open Social
Nothing major planned as the
Coronation Ball will be here next
week.

August 23
Coronation Ball
Once again we will be joining with
the ISCWR and their major event
of the year. We will be having our
own hospitality room and the
weekend should be a great time for
everyone. It's weekend not to be
missed if last year was any
indication. **(non-club function)**

September 11
Novice Night
This is the night for all those
"girls" who might want or need a
little bit of help with their makeup,
hair, clothes, tec. We will have sev-
eral people in to answer all of your
questions.

Oct 9
Swap Meet
It's time to bring in those clothes
that don't fit or suit you. Everyone
else will be doing the same. With a
little bit of luck, someone will
bring in something you like. If not,
remember Halloween is coming.

**For dates of upcoming
Edmonton Socials or for more
information, call Roxanne or
Rachael at (403) 486-9661
or (403) 488-3234**

COMMUNITY BITS AND PIECES

SHOE RAFFLE
Sponsored by Gina,
Duchess Exterior

We will need your help in buying
and selling tickets, so please offer
your help to the sponsors. The pro-
ceeds from this raffle will go to the
Social committee to help fund
future events at the Club Socials!

ARGRA
Ongoing dances throughout the

year..We are welcome to come any
time. Michelle, Brenda, Monica,
Stephanie, Susan and Teri went to
the last one after one of the Club
Socials and had a fun time.

INTERNATIONAL

June 19-22
2nd International Conference on
Crossdressing, Sex and Gender
Issues. 987 Old Eagle School Rd.
#719, Wayne, PA 19087
(610) 975-9119
(focus on professionals, open to all)

July 16-20
5th Annual Spouses Partners
International Conference for
Education (SPICE)
Peggy Rudd, PO Box 5304, Katy,
TX 77491-5304.
(918) 343-1953 (Mary Jane)
melpeg@phoenix.net or
http://www.pmpub.com
(crossdresser oriented)

August 1-4
A Vision Quest, Dixon Mountain,
NC (704) 253-9882
(open to all TG-identified)

August 3-10
Dignity Cruise to Alaska
with Peggy Rudd., For more info
write to PO Box 5304, Katy TX
77491-5304.
Call Brenda 1-800-247-7021
(crossdresser oriented)

August 9-11
3rd Annual FTM International
Conference, Boston MA, 5337
College Ave, #142, Oakland, CA
94618, (617) 683-1095
(female-to-male identified people)

September 4-7
Rites of passage 7, Guerneville,
CA c/o Wendy Kaiser, 246
Lebanon Road, North Berwick,
ME 03906, (207) 676-5870,
WKaiser@aol.com

September 10-13
Harry Benjamin International
Symposium Gender Dysphoria,
Vancouver Health Sciences Center,
Center for Sexuality, Gender
Identity, Echelon Bld.,
2nd Fl., 855 W 12 Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V5Z 1C6
(professional conference)

September 18-21
Paradise in the Poconos

PO Box 61263, King of Prussia PA
19406-1263. (610) 640-9449
(crossdresser oriented)

October 2-5
Southern Comfort, Atlanta GA
PO Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357

October 19-26
Fantasia Fair, Provincetown MA
PO Box 2734, Boston, MA 02208

DIRECTORY

Illusions Social Club
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(403) 275-6443 Fax

Illusion Social Club
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Edmonton T5P 4V8
(403) 486-9661 or 488-3234
Roxanne or Rachel

**Victoria Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual
& Transgendered Pride Society**
PO Box 8016, Station Central,
Victoria, BC V8W 3R7
Tel (250) 995-2992 (24 hr. msg
line) e-mail robbs@uvic.ca

Xpressions
PO Box 223, Station A
Toronto, ON M5W 1B2
The club provides events and
outings to enhance the transgender
experience and the ultimate
goal of being comfortable
dressed in public.

**East Kootenay Gay and Lesbian
Organization (EKGLO)**
To provide a safe and supportive
environment for les/bi/gay, and
transgendered persons and their
friends and family.
Box 21023 Cranbrook Mall Postal
Outlet, Cranbrook, BC, V1C 6K5
(250) 489-5939

Get your events listed
Illusion Magazine
(403) 236-7072 or
fax (403) 275-6443

Illusions Social Club 7th Year Celebration

RACHEL LUCKY NUMBER SEVEN

Illusions turned seven this summer with all the festivities and fanfare one would expect from such a momentous occasion. In addition to candidates Christina, Dana and Rachel, Gina, Jessica and Empress VI Michelle mounted the stage for rousing performances.

After the obligatory round of questioning to ensure those vying for the honour of becoming Illusions Empress VII had brains as well as beauty, the members cast their ballots for the candidates of their choice. The coveted crown moves north this year as Rachel, who has done so much to get Illusions off the ground up there, steps up from last year's role as First Princess to become our Empress VII.

Dana becomes First Princess, while an international flavour will be added by Christina, now Second Princess, who will be moving stateside before too long.

While the focus was on our incoming royalty, this was also a moment to express our appreciation for those who have made special efforts to help out

the club over the past year, including the ever-industrious Darryl, who has helped to add some character to our new premises and was this year's recipient of the Stephanie Donaldson award. Last but not least, outgoing Empress VI Michelle and Princess Christine were warmly applauded for the often unrecognized efforts they have put in over the last year to keep the club a welcoming and vibrant organization.

Thanks gals!

L - R Christine (Princess II),
Rachel (Empress VII),
Michelle (Empress VI), and Dana (Princess I)

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privacy considerations.

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IN YOUR FACE...

political activism against gender oppression

We receive this four page
newsletter twice a year.

The complete listing of all subversive actions against gender oppression around the U.S., along with occasional instructions on how to roll your own.

They state that their mission is to cover all actions related to over throwing gender oppression, transphobia, genderphobia, homophobia and related oppressive political structures.

Here are snippets of some of the stories they include:

Forte Killer Pleads Guilty, Gets Life

[Lawrence, MA: Sept. 16, 1996] Michael Thompson gets life in prison after pleading guilty to murdering Debbie Forte. It seems he took her home and started "messing around" discovered a penis and killed her. Transsexual Menace, GenderPAC and IFGE gathered outside the court in quiet memorial vigil.

National Push For GID Reforms Heats UP

ACTIVISTS PICKET APA HEAD-QUARTERS IN WASHINGTON [Washington, DC: Nov. 8, 1996] A broad coalition of national queer groups banded together for their first protest on genderqueer issues. Forty activists held a demonstration outside the national headquarters of the American Psychiatric Association. Sponsored by Transsexual Menace, The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), Bi-Net USA and the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC).

They protested APA's continued use of Gender Identity Disorder as a mental illness, claiming it unfairly pathologizes gender-variant youth and transpeople.

TRANSACTIVISTS PICKET APA NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO

Demonstrators carried signs and handed out a thousand flyers. In a bit of guerilla theater, some protesters managed to insert the flyers into the APA program guides. One Menace spoketrans said, "If I want my nose done, it's a 'nose job', if I Want my breasts done, it's a 'boob job', but if I want my groin done, suddenly I have a 'mental disease'. GID is NOT about psychiatry, it's about punishing difference under the guise of practicing medicine."

Other headlines:

Hermaphrodites With Attitude! Picket Docs; LA Times Details Intersex Abuse; Suit Alleges Police Intersex Brutality; VT Rallies For Crossdressing Teen; NY Times Prints Groundbreaking Story (Media Catches On To Gender Activism); Trans Murder In Cleveland; Brandon Teena Re-Visited.

GenderPAC Updates - GenderPAC Formalized As National Movement, More National Groups Join Board, GenderPAC and N.O.W. Meet On Transinclusion, Violence Study Web Page Launched.

Local News Roundup - Cambridge Passes Historic Gender Protections, Pittsburgh Promotes TG Anti-Discrimination Law, CT Gov: No Pride For GenderQueers; **Conference Addresses TG Prostitution; Holiday Inn Pulls**

Super-Bowl Ad; TG Prisoner Alleges Sexual Assault; Menace Protests Accused Prison Rape; Menace Protests For Chanelle Picket.

International News -

Korean Court Says Transsexuals Can't Be Raped; Violence Against Brazilian Transpeople; Today We Are All Transvestites; **GenderPAC & HRC Lobby Together On The Hill.**

As you can see this four page newsletter is just packed with information and is certainly an eye opening read. If it does nothing else it will certainly make you feel happy about the reasonable freedom we have here but, it could also show you that things could be a lot better for us all. Just the articles on the murders should remind us that are out, that we have to use caution and common sense when we are out and about.

This newsletter is funded by GenderPAC, "gender, affectional and racial equality." Like all publications they could use your support by subscribing to the newsletter at only \$10.00 US. It is also published on the Web at <http://www.cdspub.com>.

The publishers: Editors: Riki Anne Wilchins, Nancy Nangeroni and Claire Howell.

You can reach them at:
IYF, c/o 274 W.
11 St. #4R,
NYC 10014.
e-mail

Riki @ pipeline.com or
nm @ gendertalk.com

Ann Landers Re-Visited

Not long ago I was reading the Ann Landers column in the June 4, 1997 Calgary Herald and found "CROSS-DRESSING HUSBAND CAUSES WIFE UNHAPPINESS!" as the opening letter and headline grabber. Who says anything that has to do with transgenderism isn't topical? This unhappy wife writes that she is a frustrated woman, who is married to a crossdresser. She adds that although Ann Landers has written that, "Some wives and girlfriends enjoy their crossdressing sweethearts and husbands and promote their 'hobby'", this is certainly not the case for her.

She has suspected "Don" of wearing her clothes for several years and has thrown away stretched and torn clothing on many occasions. When she couldn't find a bra or blouse she knew her husband had taken it.

Counselors have suggested she leave her husband or "take him as he is" as he'll never change. Her stance is that after all these years of marriage she doesn't want a divorce or damage Don's image as his family and friends hold him in high regard and his co-workers think he is wonderful. Her woman friends think she has the "perfect marriage" however, she says her family life is horrible, she cries a lot and doesn't know what to do! She closes with "Please Help Me!"

Ann Landers writes back saying that she can't help a woman who, "Tells me her home life is miserable, she is frustrated and unhappy and cries a lot, but she does not want a divorce." Ann goes on about the counselors suggestion and her inability to follow their advice either and suggested that this woman will likely be miserable regardless of what she does.

Ann's advice? Develop a life, get some hobbies outside of the house, stay in therapy, lock up her closet and put her underwear where her husband can't get it.

EDITORS NOTE: What's your opinion? Of either the complaint or the advice? Write to us with you ideas on this letter and maybe we'll forward them on to Ann Landers herself! Frankly I don't understand some of the complaints....so Don's mother manipulates him...what has that got to do with crossdressing? Also...what kind of "friends" of hers...suspect nothing of her emotional being and are under the opinion that she or "they" have the perfect marriage? Let's hear your couch review!

Deviant Sex Targeted... Police Clamp Down On Turk's Penchant For Crossdressing

I'm glad we live in Canada and not in Istanbul where Amberin Zaman writes for the Sunday Telegraph. The article opens telling us about another minority protesting its treatment at the hands of the countries thuggish police force. Not Kurds, journalists or left-wing students, but transvestites and transsexuals.

Per capita Turkey is second only to Brazil in its transvestite population. Many live by prostitution which they claim is a continuation of historic traditions of homosexual vice. Gay and crossdressing entertainers are common on Turkish Television, while Islamic machismo and an indulgence of exotic sexual tastes have existed side by side for centuries.

Apparently a pro-Islamic party has come to power and the tolerance is at an end, shown by police persecution, beatings, torture, and even the slicing off of breasts.

However, all is not lost as Demet Demir, a post-op transsexual has been struggling to promote the rights of transpeople. Her efforts have recently been recognized by The International Gay And Lesbian Rights Commission that is based in New York.

She says the fight is far from over and if anything it has become bloodier because the mullahs are in power. According to Demir, the Islamists are the worst hypocrites as one of her customers was an iman.

Turkish men love them, the fascination with transvestites dates back to the Ottoman times. During campaigning the Sultan would usually be accompanied by a contingent of "pretty young boys" for his entertainment.

The article goes on to say that thousands of Turks attended the funeral of Zeki Muren, turkey's most revered homosexual musician. His death caused the greatest out-pouring of national grief since the passing of the founder of modern Turkey, Kemal Ataturk. The article closes with a quote from one of the "Girls". "You see," said Ayla, pointing to his breasts and to what he referred to as his "battle-axe": "We offer the best of both worlds."

Editors Note: Not all transgendered people are gay but regardless, the article was worth noting for the lack of freedom others have to deal with, the freedoms that we take for granted. **You don't have to be an activist you just need to be active.**

SOCIETY...continued from pg. 10

this is a good chance to show us how good you look in blue jeans.

"This year we have elected a wonderful royalty."

We then want to take on the renovating spirit. This is for all of you Martha Stewart's out there. We can do so much with our club to make it look pretty and comfortable. Lisa has purchased at a special price some paint for the entry stairs, door, stage and walls too. She has also located some carpet for some of the room. Painting days are scheduled for Saturday's in July and August, more details will be available at Illusions. Treats and drinks will be available at the events.

The 5th annual Girls of Summer event has yet to be planned. It has in the past been organized outside of Illusions. A group is needed to run this event, such as in the past, The Twisted Sisters and Royalty Productions. Edmonton's ball has fallen on the 23rd of August this year, a traditional time for Girls of Summer so it may be held on August 16 or September 6.

This year Illusions will be open for the month of August. A point to consider is that we do pay rent, so the Girls of Summer can be held at the club (catered), or that we have three functions that month.

Gina has been organizing a shoe raffle fund-raiser. Winner takes home a pair of shoes of their choice (up to a preset limit) from B&B. In the past our wig raffle and music blaster draw brought much needed money to the social committee.

At the Illusions meeting expect to see a newsletter from the social committee waiting for you. It will recount past events and let you in on upcoming ones. It will also be a way of letting you know that your

club needs of it's people that month.

So, this is our big chance ladies, let's make our club a fun place to be and a place to be proud of.

your letters...continued from page 5

THE RING AND THE CHILD....

When I was a child, I thought like a child, I played like a child, I believed in me, like a child.

When I grew up into an adult, I put childish things away, I became responsible and trustworthy, I became what society chose me to be.

Now I know better, I am the child inside the adult, I've chosen to 'come out' and serve, I've chosen to be me.

I found a home where I could be me, it was like a ring, unique and precious, I became the diamond set in the ring, the rings name is Illusions.

Now as an adult, I'm like a child, I'm a colourful butterfly and a brilliant diamond, I am the best I can be, I am me, forever, Illusions will be my ring.

Rachael Dawn Bardeck

Thank you for your note regarding my membership. I completely forgot. I really appreciate everything you people do for us. I wish I could be there this weekend but if I didn't come into work, there would be nobody here except the boss and he wouldn't be happy about that. Have a good party and a good summer.

Mandy #357

You have probably heard it before a hundred times....BUT...one more time isn't going to hurt is it? KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! Illusions is a wonderful magazine and manages to convey the message that

S.P.I.C.E.
GETTING TO KNOW YOU
YOUR SELF
YOUR SPOUSE
YOUR FRIENDS



JULY 16-20, 1997
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EVELYN 215-860-9271 EASTERN, OR
MARY JANE 918-343-1953 CENTRAL

***SPOUSES/PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATION***

transvestism is not a matter of choice for those of us who feel compelled to portray the "en Femme" image. You and the Illusion's gals have been a great source of inspiration to me. I am finally getting close to accepting my femme alter ego...Billie Jean....and would never have done so without your group. A special thanks to Michelle, who has more than she will ever know, been instrumental in getting me to confront the crossdressing demons that haunt me.

You people have earned my trust! Unlike the politicians who rule this land!

Billie Jean Member #318

Registry

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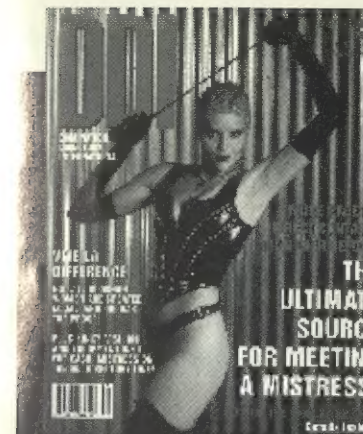
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Personals

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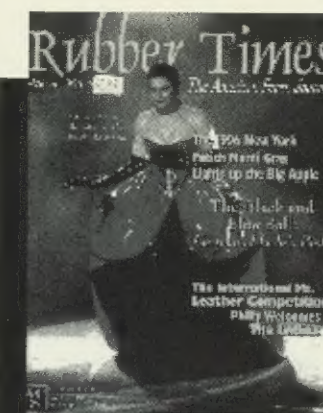
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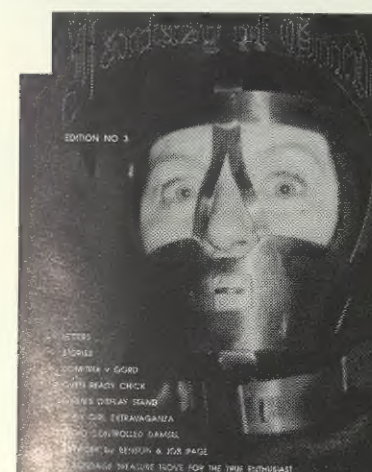
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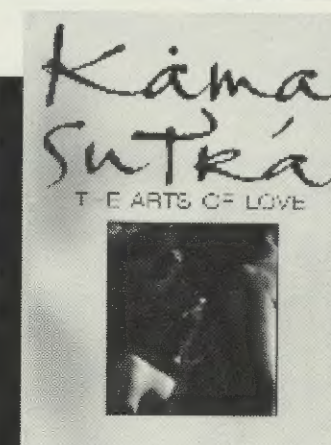
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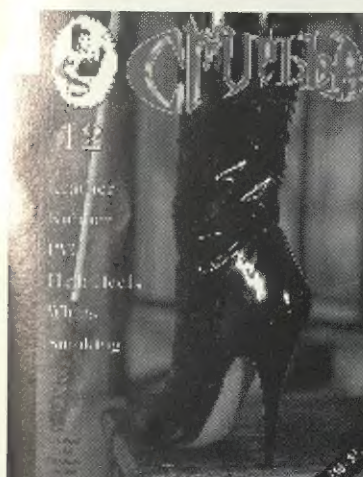
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FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Danbie

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